

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

December 19, 2013

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MoDOT Presents Prize Money to Children's Cancer Charity

by Melissa Black

MoDOT recently joined the fight against cancer when Director Nichols presented a \$10,000 check to representatives of CureSearch for Children's Cancer Monday, Dec. 16, in Kansas City. MoDOT received the \$10,000 prize for winning the People's Choice Award for the Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program. The award is determined by a popular vote of the general public, and is part of the America's Transportation Awards competition, sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



MoDOT Director Dave Nichols presents a check for \$10,000 to Kelli Wright, director of grants and strategic partnerships for CureSearch for Children's Cancer. Also present were Harry and Robin Koenigs. Harry was KTU Constructors' project director for the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Project. They have been tireless fundraisers for CureSearch since their son Jake died of a rare form of cancer in 2006. By winning the "People's Choice Award," MoDOT received the cash prize that was to be designated for a charity of the agency's choice.

MoDOT was allowed to select the charity of its choice, and there is a personal connection between the Safe & Sound project and CureSearch. KTU Constructors' project director, Harry Koenigs and his wife Robin lost their son Jake to a form of children's cancer in 2006. They, along with Koenig's employer, Kiewit, have worked tirelessly to raise research funds through a series of "JakeFest" golf tournaments that have netted more than \$1 million. CureSearch funds and supports targeted and innovative children's cancer research.

"We are honored to contribute this prize to the CureSearch effort in honor of Jake," Nichols said. "We want the Koenigs to realize Jake didn't die in vain and this money will help raise more awareness for a cure for cancer."

Safe & Sound replaced or repaired 802 of the state's poorest bridges in each of Missouri's 114 counties. Work began in 2009 and the final bridge was completed in November last year, two years earlier than MoDOT's goal, and more than a year ahead of the commitment established by the project's design-build contractor, KTU Constructors. The program also finished under its \$685 million budget.

"Safe and Sound continues to be a model project that other states are now considering," Nichols said. "I am so proud of all the work our employees and partners put in to this unique program."

This is the second time MoDOT has won in this competition. The reconstruction of I-64 in St. Louis was the winner of the grand prize in 2010, which is chosen by a panel of judges. MoDOT won this year with 330,000 votes.

Additional photos can be found on the Kansas City District's Page - [KC District](#)

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! This past Tuesday it was my honor to participate in the Central Office service award luncheon. As I looked around the room at the honorees, I felt lucky to belong to an organization where people wanted to build a career and plant their lives for 20 or more years. Today, job hopping is pretty commonplace. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says U.S. workers change jobs an average of 11 times during their careers. The 65 honorees at the Central Office are obviously overachievers!

What's more impressive is similar events have been held in all seven of our districts. A total of 952 employees reached service anniversaries of 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years in 2013. That's about 19 percent of all MoDOT employees and represents 13,455 years of experience. If you asked the honorees what made them stay so long, I'm not certain what they would say. I hope they would tell you the work they do is important, and they know they make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Missouri. A career in public service isn't generally a path to fame and fortune, but I hope these MoDOT honorees would tell you it has been personally rewarding.

All 952 honorees are special in my book, but I want to mention four by name. They are Senior Maintenance Worker Lambert Gruenloh, Maintenance Crew Leader Ronald Freese, Maintenance Superintendent



Lawrence Schumer and Executive Assistant Marjorie Frank. These four have each dedicated 40 years to the citizens of Missouri and our state transportation system. They’ve faithfully answered the call for more than 10,000 days, not counting being called in to work weekends, holidays or

staying late to get the job done right. They’ve seen the department move from handwritten field diaries to smartphone apps and from typewriters and carbon paper to color laser printers. I’m sure each could tell us hours of stories about how things have changed since they started in 1973. So in honor of our four 40-year veterans, I wanted to reminisce a little about the year they started at the department.

In 1973:

- The war in Vietnam ended while the Watergate hearings heated up in Washington, D.C.
- The number one hit song was *Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree*.
- The top three television shows were *All in the Family*, *The Waltons* and *Sanford and Son*.
- A brand new Ford Galaxie 500 with a built-in 8-track player was \$3,883.
- The average worker earned \$12,900 per year.
- The average home cost about \$32,500.
- A first class postage stamp cost eight cents.
- The price of a gallon of gasoline was 40 cents.
- A historic 77-day flood hit Missouri sending rivers across the state to record levels.
- The Missouri Highway Department was working on how best to use a recently approved state fuel tax increase of two cents which brought the amount paid at the pump to seven cents per gallon.



I’m proud to be a part of an organization that recognizes employees who have dedicated their careers and lives to public service. I celebrated my 15th year with MoDOT in 2013. In fact, Dave took some time just a few days ago to present me with my certificate and pin, and tell me thanks. My 15 years of MoDOT service are layered on top almost 18 years with the State Auditor’s Office, so this year was actually my 33rd in state government. Those years help me understand some of the sacrifices you’ve made, and to feel the sense of purpose that comes from doing an important, and sometimes difficult job, knowing that it is improving the lives of others. My appreciation goes out to all our service honorees and their families. I’m proud to serve with you.

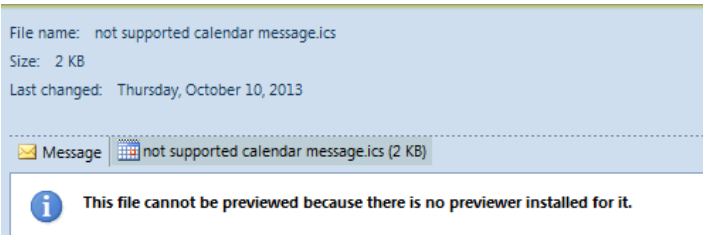
Thanks for being a part of Team MoDOT for so many years.

Outlook Reminders and Strange Meetings

by Amie Peters

Once you’ve been moved to Outlook you will notice some changes and may have questions like, “What are these meeting invitations that contain a strange tab at the top?” and “I’m getting a lot of pop-up meeting reminders on my mobile devices, can I turn them off?” There’s a reason why this is happening, and here’s the solution.

Calendar Invitations - While MoDOT has some employees using Outlook and some still using Lotus Notes, you may receive meeting invitations that contain a tab stating “not supported calendar message.ics”:



This occurs when meeting invitations are sent to distribution groups, which continue to be located in Lotus Notes. Please note that not all meeting invitations will contain this message and will only occur until all MoDOT employees and groups are migrated to Outlook in late January or early February 2014.

Solution: Double-click the Calendar attachment in the message, and then you can respond to the invitation as appropriate. It will appear in your Outlook calendar as normal.

Reminders - Out-of-the-box settings work for the majority of users, but not everyone. Fortunately, Outlook lets you configure many of its features to suit your needs both on your computer and mobile devices. Click the links below to see resolutions.

- [Change the default calendar reminder interval.](#)
- [Disable reminders in Outlook on your computer.](#)
- [Disable iPhone alerts](#)

- [Disable iPad reminders](#)
- [Disable Android reminders](#)



Please note: Those options may appear in different places depending on what version of the operating system a user would be using.

Lastly, please remember only three years of emails will be kept in your Outlook mailbox once you've transitioned from Lotus Notes. To find older emails you'll need to search your Lotus Notes database or SourceOne archive. This measure will help ensure that we use Outlook as a communication tool and not for file storage.

Survey Shows Strong Support for MoDOT Safety Program

by Jim Dickson

A recent survey of department supervisors and managers show strong support for MoDOT's comprehensive safety program. The Senior Management Safety Focus Team, chaired by State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer Eileen Rackers, sponsored the online survey to get a quick read on how well some of the safety measures put in place over the past two years are working. And the results are encouraging.

"Getting more than 98 percent agreement that MoDOT leadership supports employee safety is great news," said Rackers. "It's clear that a majority of our supervisors and managers support the direction of our safety program." Rackers noted seven items scored 90 percent agreement or higher and the lowest scoring item still had 84 percent agreement.

Here's the breakdown for all the survey items:

Safety Program Component	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Total Agree
I believe MoDOT leadership supports employee safety.	85%	12%	98%
My district or division keeps my work unit aware of safety issues specific to our work.	61%	34%	95%
MoDOT safety videos help me talk with my work team about safety.	32%	60%	92%
Employee wellness fairs are a good way to promote employee health.	40%	51%	91%
The Comprehensive Safety Program Sharepoint site is a good tool to find all safety information in one location.	51%	40%	91%
Verbal warnings for most first-time safety violations are a good way to change employee behavior.	47%	42%	90%
The department's requirement to wear personal protection equipment (PPE) is a good way to keep employees safe.	56%	34%	90%
Risk-Based Assessments are a good tool to focus workers on daily safety.	37%	49%	87%
CPR and First-Aid training is an important part of keeping our workforce and customers safe.	47%	40%	87%
Contractor safety plans are a good way to promote better safety for our contractors and customers.	32%	53%	86%
On-site safety reviews (Operational Safety Reviews) promote conversations about safety between department leaders and employees.	30%	55%	85%
The safety training for new employees (Gear Up classroom and on-the-job) is sufficient to keep them safe.	29%	55%	84%

The survey also generated a large number of written comments, which the focus team will be reviewing to better understand the overall survey results. Rackers said support for the program is a good first step, but the real proof will be how it impact employee safety measures over the next few years.

How Important is Internal Customer Service?

by Shelly Aebersold

How often do we think about our internal customers and the way we treat them? We tend to focus so much on our external customers that sometimes we forget that co-workers and colleagues in other departments are just as important and actually key to serving our external customers.

Now that customer service representatives take calls from all over the state, my internal customers have broadened greatly because I now depend on the entire MoDOT organization to help me serve customers. I answer calls statewide and depend on the contact map, MoDOT phone book, and various other tools to direct me to the appropriate person to help

my customer, but most importantly I depend on other MoDOT employees. By developing relationships with employees statewide, customer service reps are able to provide excellent customer service to internal and external customers alike.

Excellent internal customer service can't exist without good communication across the organization. Communication ensures that folks in different departments have the information they need to effectively achieve goals. For example, customer service representatives are now communicating statewide with area engineers, resident engineers, human resources, signal electricians, financial services and more, in order to get answers for external customers. I have become much more familiar with not only the MoDOT organization but the entire state of Missouri.

Here are some ways to ensure that we are delivering excellent internal customer service.

- Share an upbeat attitude, have empathy and smile. Everyone is busy, but remember we are "one team." Assist your co-workers without making them feel like their request is an imposition.
- Be reliable and dependable. Deliver on what we say we will do.
- Always demonstrate a willingness to help others. If you are not able to answer a question or provide information needed, offer to find the person who can.
- Respond to emails, voicemail and instant messages. Don't make someone wait for a response. If you are in the office but busy with other projects, send them a reply and tell them you will get back with them as soon as possible.

By following these simple tips, we can all provide excellent customer service to our co-workers which in turn will reflect to our external customers that we are an outstanding organization.



Shelly Aebersold is a senior customer service representative in the Northwest District.

Pay Check Reminder!

by Suzette Kempker

It's that time of year again when we start seeing changes in our pay checks. Your net pay changes if your salary or deductions (health insurance, cafeteria plan, deferred comp, etc.) change. Make sure the amounts are right. You should review your electronic check stub regularly to make sure your pay, deductions and leave balances are correct.

Check your address too. It is important to make sure the address on your electronic check stub is correct. W-2s will be mailed to your home address in January. Make sure the address is current to avoid delays in delivery.

Health insurance premiums for some plans are increasing for 2014. Your premium may also change if you made changes to your plan coverage during open enrollment in October. MoDOT health insurance premiums are paid one month in advance. The December premiums pay for January coverage. Any changes to your coverage for 2014 was reflected on your Dec. 16 paycheck.

The Jan. 15 paycheck may change as a result of the any of the following:

- Federal and State Taxes
- Cafeteria Plan
- Delta Dental and National Vision Administrators
- Missouri State Charitable Campaign
- Optional Life Insurance

If you have any questions, please contact your district or division payroll representative or Financial Services Payroll section.



Schools Invited to Fight Litter Through "No MORE Trash!" Contest

Missouri public, private and home-school students in grades K-8 are invited to help in the fight against litter in the Show-Me State -- and to have creative and educational fun -- by participating in the 2014 "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter-Free" trash-can-decorating contest.

The annual trash-can contest encourages students to join in the fight against litter by decorating and displaying a large trash can with the "No MORE Trash!" logo and a litter-prevention message using a variety of creative media.

The annual contest is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and MoDOT as part of the state's "No MORE Trash!" statewide litter campaign. This partnership between Conservation and MoDOT, along with thousands of volunteers, works to prevent and reduce litter in Missouri through education, prevention, and cleanup activities.

"In addition to teaching kids about how litter hurts them, their communities, and their environment, the contest gives students an opportunity to help prevent littering by creating and providing a trash can with the No MORE Trash! message in their schools or communities," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT roadside management specialist.

Entry details, contest rules and judging criteria, along with past contest entries and winners are available at www.nomoretrash.org.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American generates



The seventh grade art class at Southwest Livingston County R-1 won the last year's grand prize with their entry, "Give Trash the Boot-Recycle!"

4.3 pounds of solid waste per day. Based on this average and the state's population of approximately six million people, Missouri accounts for more than 25 million pounds of garbage in one day – more than nine billion pounds of trash per year.

"A great deal of that trash shows up on the Show-Me State's roadsides, natural areas and waterways," said Joe Jerek, Conservation's news service coordinator. "Litter harms water quality and plant health, degrades natural areas and hurts wildlife. Litter poses health risks and creates roadway and waterway safety hazards. It hurts property values, housing prices, landscape appearance, and our overall quality of life."

Littering is illegal in Missouri and can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and one year in jail.



Angela Littlejohn's homeschool students in West Plains won the grade 3-5 category with their Transformers-themed entry, "Transform and Roll Out Trash!"

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Chat With the Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post and see Ed's recent post on winter operations - [Chat with the Chief](#).

Osage River Bridge Demolition

The first of three demolitions to take down the old Osage River Bridge took place earlier this month. For more information and to see a video of the demolition see the [Central District Page](#) - [Central District](#)



Opening Date Set for Mississippi River Bridge

The new I-70 Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Mississippi River will be open to traffic on Sunday, Feb. 9. See the St. Louis District's page for the full story - [St. Louis](#)



November EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's November meeting have been posted on the EAC website at http://www.intranet/eac/meeting_highlights.htm (works for active employees only).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt

Congratulations to Richard Domzalski of the NE District and Helen Brumitt of the SW District for knowing the 1980's merger between the Missouri Highway Department and the former Missouri Department of Transportation resulted in an organization with the responsibility of the state's highway, rail, water, air and transit system.

We've got a double question for this week's Centennial Quiz. How many TowPlows are in MoDOT's fleet today AND how many gallons of beet juice were used last winter?

- 79 TowPlows and 400,000 gallons of beet juice
- 10,000 TowPlows and 1,000,000 gallons of beet juice
- 3 TowPlows and one pint of beet juice concentrate - Now with Omega 3!
- 47.5 TowPlows, 600 gallons of beet juice with a twist of lemon





Click left to enter online or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, Dec. 27 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away (*link works for active employees only*).

December Retirements

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Derrick A. Taylor - KC - 30 years | Gary R. Sager - SE - 27 years | David A. Wright - CO - 20 years |
| David J. Logan - CD - 41 years | Steven H. Jackson - CO - 31 years | Steve R. Collins - CO - 27 years |
| Dan E. Ream - SW - 37 years | | |

In Memoriam

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Stephen Helling (active employee) | Donald Miller | Harry Meek |
| NE District – November 13 | former D1 – November 17 | former D1 – November 29 |
| George Robinson | Thomas Hayes | Michael Head |
| former D7 – November 8 | former D8 – November 21 | former D2 – November 30 |
| John Swink | Jerry Young II | Joe Nelson |
| former D6 – November 10 | former D4 – November 24 | former D2 – December 5 |
| Hugo Goldammer | Harold Butcher | Cue White |
| CO – November 11 | former D10 – November 27 | former D8 – December 7 |
| Kenneth Brazzell | Carolyn Kennedy | |
| former D1 – November 13 | former D7 – November 28 | |

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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More Winter Safety Tips

Now that the winter weather has begun, the Safety and Health staff would like you to remember some points that can keep you safe in the inclement winter weather.

- Keep your cell phone charged and when traveling keep others informed of your itinerary.
- Never assume because a sidewalk, steps or roadway only appear wet, that they are not slick. Yes, ice is bad, but wet pavement can cause you to lose your footing or the control of your vehicle just as ice can. Pavement that looks wet can actually be ice covered.
- Always keep weather appropriate clothing in your vehicle. Never assume because you are not planning to leave the vehicle that an emergency may not force you into the inclement weather. Keeping gloves, hats and warm coats in your car could save your life or that of a loved one.
- When using wet, ice or snow covered steps, use available hand rails. This simple act could prevent you from serious injury.
- Keep bottled water, blankets and some items to eat in your vehicle. If you become stranded, these items could save your life or that of loved ones.
- Don't get in a hurry when driving. Being a little late is better than never getting there.
- Keep a working flashlight in your car.
- Don't overexert yourself in this weather. Cold weather activity, including shoveling snow, can cause incredible stress on your body, particularly your heart. Use caution completing such tasks.



Staying safe is not accomplished by accident - think about what you are doing so you can avoid unnecessary risk of injury.

Tim Taylor, Senior Risk Management Specialist
Risk and Benefits Management - Central Office
timothy.taylor@modot.mo.gov

Off With The Gloves

If you have ever tried exiting one of the MoDOT buildings after hours while wearing gloves, you might have had trouble getting the door to open. That's because the crash bar on the door that you push to exit will not release if you are wearing gloves. It takes contact with a bare hand to activate the bar to release the lock. So remember, gloves off when leaving buildings after hours with those types of security locks.



Thank You Concert

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Orchestra gave its annual holiday concert at
Central Office earlier this month. Director

Ashley Nelson and 21 students perform the annual concert as a thank you to MoDOT for being a partner in education.

The Partners in Education program, sponsored by the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, allows MoDOT and other partners, such as the Federal Highway Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Modine Manufacturing to provide a full day of science and math related activities for 8th grade students each year.



What's Happening at Central Office



MeeZone Presentation

Work Life Balance

Presented by Andy Core

Thursday, Jan. 16

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Harry S Truman State Office Building

Room 490/492 - 301 West High Street

Andy has a master's degree in the science of human performance and has spent the last 16 years mastering the art of inspiring people to become energized, healthy, motivated and better equipped to thrive in today's hectic society. In this program, you will learn how to better fit work-life balance, health, connection and sustained motivation into your daily life.

This event is free and gives two hours of LMS credit (using your MEE Zone hours). **LMS Student Center Sign On link** (*works for active employees only*)
Course # 92000 – Work Life Balance, Andy Core
Kristen Bagwill - Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov



CPR and First Aid Training Opportunities

Help make the 100 percent goal to have all employees trained in CPR and First Aid.

Dec. 27 - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 30 - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 31 - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location - 105 Wests Capitol Ave., Conference Room 100

To sign up contact Joanie Prenger

Joanie.Prenger@modot.mo.gov

573-751-4094

More Useful Videos for MoDOT's Mentors and Mentees

Check out these videos.

For mentors:

Ernesto Sirolli: Want to help someone? Shut up and listen!

For mentees:

Prioritization Skills



Click above to watch Ernesto Sirolli's video.

You can view all the mentoring newsletters at - [Newsletters](#) (works for active employees only)

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Be Careful in Cold Winter Weather

It may be over 50 degrees today and not yet winter, according to the calendar, but we’ve already seen winter weather in Northwest Missouri and more is headed our way. Extremely cold weather can present a dangerous work environment for employees, especially for those who work in a poorly insulated areas, an unheated area or those who work outdoors.

These employees may be at risk of cold stress. The effects of cold stress can vary from region to region across the country. In areas where residents and workers are unaccustomed to cold weather, near freezing temperatures are considered factors for cold stress. It may take more to induce cold stress in areas where colder weather is common.

Regardless of the region, if temperatures drop significantly below normal, and as wind speed increases, heat can more rapidly leave your body. These weather-related conditions may lead to serious health problems including different types of cold stress such as hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot and chilblains. The Center for Disease Control's website has information on these and other types of cold stress, both how to prevent and how to treat them. Click [here](#) to visit their site.

At MoDOT, we have policies in place in our Engineering Policy Guide to help prevent these types of injuries among our workers. Policy 171.13 ADM(D1) states:

When the ambient temperature is below 10° F or the wind chill index is below 5° F, routine roadway surface maintenance operations, including crack pouring, should be deferred. Emergency maintenance operations, including surface repairs, must still be performed as needed. When the temperature is below 10° F, routine operations should be confined to operations in sheltered areas, such as brush cutting, where exposure is minimized.

As an employee, you can take steps to make sure your risk is lowered by planning ahead. Wear appropriate clothing. Several layers of loose clothing provides better insulation. Make sure to protect your ears, face, hands and feet. Carry extra cold weather gear and a thermos of hot liquid, if possible. And protect each other. Monitor your own condition and that of your coworkers.

Another thing to note is that because of the nature of the job, many of our field workers may encounter unprepared motorists who are in more danger during snow fights. Their car may be stranded for an extended period without the protective clothing and gear our workers have. Review the safety chat provided earlier by our safety office on hypothermia so you can recognize the signs of this dangerous condition in yourself, co-workers and stranded motorists to get medical attention as soon as possible. Even carrying a thermometer and chemical heat packs (hand warmers) in a first-aid kit can go a long way.

Be prepared and be safe out there!

Blueprint Grants Available

The Northwest Regional Coalition for Roadway Safety has once again sent out a call for grant applications to help increase traffic safety awareness and reduce fatalities and injuries on Northwest Missouri roadways. This is the third year funds have been available for interested applicants in the Northwest District's 20 counties. Special events, equipment, educational and other programs put on by schools, community groups, law enforcement, health departments and others are eligible for funding.

Wind Chill Table by JP Honeywell												
Wind speed (in mph)	still air temperature (degrees F)											
	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10
wind chill temperature												
0	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10
5	100	89	79	69	59	49	39	29	19	9	-1	-11
10	100	87	77	67	57	47	37	27	16	-4	-14	-24
15	100	85	76	65	55	45	35	25	14	-14	-24	-34
20	100	83	75	63	53	43	33	23	12	-18	-28	-38
25	100	81	73	61	51	41	31	21	10	-20	-30	-40
30	100	79	71	59	49	39	29	19	8	-22	-32	-42
35	100	77	69	57	47	37	27	17	6	-24	-34	-44
40	100	75	67	55	45	35	25	15	4	-26	-36	-46
45	100	73	65	53	43	33	23	13	2	-28	-38	-48
50	100	71	63	51	41	31	21	11	0	-30	-40	-50
55	100	69	61	49	39	29	19	9	-2	-32	-42	-52
60	100	67	59	47	37	27	17	7	-4	-34	-44	-54
65	100	65	57	45	35	25	15	5	-6	-36	-46	-56
70	100	63	55	43	33	23	13	3	-8	-38	-48	-58
75	100	61	53	41	31	21	11	1	-10	-40	-50	-60
80	100	59	51	39	29	19	9	-1	-12	-42	-52	-62
85	100	57	49	37	27	17	7	-3	-14	-44	-54	-64

Note: Wind speeds greater than 40mph add little to the effect

No protection required	Little danger if properly clothed	Increasing Danger of freezing exposed skin	Great Danger of freezing exposed skin
------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Formula used to calculate Wind chill

Wind chill = 91.4 - (0.474677 - 0.020425 * W + 0.303107 * SQRT(W)) * (91.4 - T)

where W = wind speed (mph)
and
T = temperature (° F)



A participant in Putnam County's Bicycle Rodeo, held in June, learns about safe bicycling. The Bicycle Rodeo was partially funded through a Blueprint grant.

To be eligible for the grants, programs must address at least one of the Blueprint-identified emphasis areas, including serious crash types, high-risk drivers and occupants, special vehicles, vulnerable roadway users and special roadway environments. The more widespread the impact of the program and the longer it lasts, the better chance it has to receive some of the limited funds available. Further information on these emphasis areas is available for download in the Blueprint for Safer Roadways, found at www.savemolives.com.

Online grant applications are available at the coalition's [website](#) and are due by January 31, 2014. Awarded funds will be announced in February. If you know of any local individuals or groups in your area whose programs would be eligible, please encourage them to apply.

Blood Drive



Blood donors followed four simple steps on their way to donation. The first was the most simple - sign in. Here Roy Roush, intermediate maintenance worker at Maryville, signed in at the NW Conference Center.



Senior Highway Designer Joyce Reynolds completes the first half of the screening process. Donors complete a questionnaire and then meet privately with a health care professional who determines if they are a candidate to donate.



The third step in the process is the actual donation of blood. Joyce Reynolds is already donating and has nearly filled one donation bag, while Roy Roush waits for his donation to begin.



After donating, each donor enjoys snacks. While donating blood is relatively easy, it does take something out of you and the snacks are a good start to replenish and refuel.

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Ice and Snow...Here We Go!

Winter came a little early for Missouri this year, so even though it wasn't Dec. 21, the official first day of winter, crews were out in full force during the first two storms. In addition to plowing in northeast Missouri, more than two dozen employees from the NE District were sent to other districts to help.

This was the first time Tate Tuley, maintenance crew leader at the Canton facility, was sent to another district to help out.

"There were a lot of similarities in the areas we plowed and what we plow here, but the big difference is they don't have wings on their trucks, so we were able to move the snow off the shoulders with our trucks," he said.

Tate said they plowed for five hours at night then the next day for about eight hours. "I've never been that far south on that side of Missouri, but it was fun, and I enjoyed it," he added.

In addition to helping out the SE District, crews assisted St. Louis. Ten operators and one supervisor traveled to the St. Louis District, and ten operators, two supervisors and two mechanics helped out in the SE District.

 **James Noon** let the fun begin,,, you guys be safe and stay warm,,,, don't forget your emergency kits, never know what will happen with a storm like this one,,,
Like · Reply · 1 · December 12 at 8:39pm



NE District Engineer Paula Gough's children created this MoDOT masterpiece!



Several drivers and trucks from the NE District are pictured heading from Troy to St. Louis to help plow snow during the last winter storm.

Around the District...

Facebook Fans "Like" NE District X2!

After posting on Facebook a picture of a snow plow and writing how people can plow their driveway, sign up for text alerts, and



Area Engineer Brian Haeffner is pictured being interviewed by WGEM Television about the U.S. 61 Intersection Safety Audit he and several other engineers conducted from Hannibal to Troy. Twenty intersections were evaluated to determine what, if anything, could be done to make them safer in the future.

check the traveler information map, the NE District decided to "boost the post" by making it an advertisement.

"The return on investment is that we have more than doubled our fan base, which means we are pushing out information to more people in northeast Missouri," said Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager.

Even though the ad ran for only one week, it continues to get dozens of "shares" and "views" on Facebook. Below are only a few of the comments received from the most recent winter storm.



Mary Elliott
Thank you for keeping up with Rt. C west of Palmyra. Much ...
👍 2 · December 14 at 10:43am



Stephanie McQueen
Thank you MoDOT crew!!! Stay safe this season! Your hard work does not go unnoticed 😊
Unlike · Comment · December 13 at 4:57pm near Quincy, IL

Merry Christmas from all of us in the NE District!



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Kansas City District Receives Economic Development Award



Shelie Daniel (center) receives the Clay County EDC Keystone Award presented to MoDOT for several notable projects in the Clay County area. Also pictures are representatives from the cities of Liberty, Kearney, and Kansas City.

Recently, MoDOT received the 2013 Keystone Recognition Award by the Clay County Economic Development Council. Each year, the Clay County EDC recognizes organizations and businesses for contributing to economic development throughout the county.

MoDOT was recognized as a key contributor of four notable projects completed in 2013. The first is the Flintlock Flyover Project in Liberty. This \$11.5 million project was showcased for its collaboration with MoDOT, and the cities of Liberty and Kansas City.

Other projects highlighted include the new interchanges on U.S. 169 and 96th Street and 108th Street. Widening and safety improvements completed on Route 92 in Kearney; and capacity

improvements and interchange reconstruction at I-35 and Route 291 in Liberty. These projects represent major traffic and safety improvements in nearly every corner of Clay County. These projects improved basic transportation and Clay County's quality of life.

40 Weeks of Construction a Foundation for Future Transportation

As soon as the snow melted last spring, MoDOT Kansas City began tackling one of the biggest, most disruptive initiatives in our District's history by tearing up and repairing, replacing or redecking 18 bridges in the Downtown area. Already heavily congested with traffic, it was absolutely necessary to cut in half the available lanes to do \$40 million worth of work in 40 weeks and finish in one season. Traffic backups were inevitable because transportation options in and out of the Downtown Loop aren't sufficient to make up for the loss of lanes.

Early on a December morning, MoDOT and its partners marked the imminent conclusion of the Downtown Bridges projects and look toward the next 20 years. MoDOT, along with local transportation advocates, hosted a press conference to discuss all the options vital to ensure a healthy transportation system well into the future, which can include street cars, regional rapid rail, bus transit, bicycle and pedestrian accommodation and other options to improve transportation efficiency.

For more information on the Downtown Bridges project, [review the project website](#).



An early-morning press conference overlooking the Kansas City skyline highlighted MoDOT's 40-week investment in the city's major transportation infrastructure. Attendees included MoDOT District Engineer Dan Niec, Kansas City Assistant City Manager Sherri McIntyre, Missouri Bicycle Federation Director Brent Hugh and Johnson County Transit Deputy Director Chuck Ferguson.



MoDOT Director Dave Nichols joined Kansas City district staff to donate \$10,000 to representatives of CureSearch for Children's Cancer on behalf of Jake Koenigs, son of KTU Constructors' project director Harry Koenigs. MoDOT received the \$10,000 prize for winning the People's Choice Award for its Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program in the America's Transportation Awards competition. [Read more here.](#) Review [photos from the event here.](#)

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Span One of the Old Hurricane Deck Bridge Blasted; Second Span Set to Drop Dec. 20

One down, two to go. Span one of the historic old Hurricane Deck Bridge was dropped into the Lake of the Ozarks via explosives on Dec. 7 near Sunrise Beach.

Contractors from American Bridge Company, Inc. and blasting subcontractor Duane Houkom, Inc. of Texas, blasted the first third of the span with 31.16 pounds of explosives designed to cut through the steel truss.

When blasting on the first span was completed, American Bridge used the following two weeks to fish the truss span and other debris out of the lake. The metal retrieved from the lake was placed on barges, processed and salvaged as scrap metal. American Bridge will repeat this process with each of the next two blasts.

Span two is scheduled to be blasted on Dec. 20, weather permitting, and span three is set for demolition two weeks after the second blast is completed. In total, approximately 3.26 million pounds of steel will be dropped into the Lake of the Ozarks via these explosions.

To watch the span one demolition from two different angles, please click on the video links:

MoDOT Video (with super slow-motion explosion footage) - <http://youtu.be/DvDoLahQqfU>

Lake TV 90 Extreme Close-Up Video (also with super slow-mo action) - <http://youtu.be/Ot9A9DjWujU>

To view all the MoDOT photos from the span one demolition please visit our Central Office Flickr page here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/modot/sets/72157638454172204/>

And last but not least, here's a time-lapse video of the new bridge construction and old bridge demolition as of Dec. 5, 2013: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=586666708053056>



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Gregg Smith pushes the ceremonial plunger to blast span one of the old Hurricane Deck Bridge on Dec. 7 near Sunrise Beach.

Central District honors employees with Service Awards in Jefferson City

Thirty-six district employees were honored for 5, 10 or 15 years of service to MoDOT at the annual Service Awards ceremony held Dec. 10 at the Central District Lab in Jefferson City.

James Collison, Cindy Dzurick, Lester

Henson, Larry Johnson and Rendle Sharp were honored for 15 years of service at the ceremony.

Those receiving safety awards at the banquet were Wilber Barton, Cindy Dzurick, Larry Johnson, Don Ramirez and Kenneth Thomas.

Others receiving service awards at the ceremony were:

10 Years
John Baker
James Blankenship
Eugene Davis
Kevin Heavin
Jared Housewright
Beth Humphrey
George Lane
Justin Neuman
Jeffrey Watson
Jeannie West

5 Years
Linzy Agnew
Trent Brooks
Jonathan Evans
Curtis Holland
Brent Holtsclaw
Dale Hutto
Scott Lyons
Jeffrey Manthey
Brenda McClain
Donald Miller
Felipe Ortega
Adam Parrett
John Rice
Susan Ringeisen
James Simmons
Jeffrey Withington



District Employees Show "True Colors"

For fun, Central District Engineer David Silvester encouraged district employees to wear their favorite college team's colors in celebration of Mizzou making the SEC Championship Game.

Here's a photo of some of the district employees who participated that day.

Silvester (middle with scarf), Kansas State graduate and fan, good naturedly put on a Mizzou scarf for the photo.



Ribbon Cutting for Route V Project



MoDOT representatives and officials from Phelps County and the City of Rolla helped cut the ribbon in sub-freezing temperatures for the Route V improvement project Dec. 5 in Rolla.

The \$477,877 project included adding five turn lanes to the Route V interchange at Interstate 44, as well as installing new signals at the interchange. The additional lanes and signals will improve traffic flow in the area. The project was funded through a cost-sharing agreement between the Missouri Department of Transportation and the City of Rolla.

Lamke Trenching and Excavating, Inc. of Marthasville, Mo., was the contractor on the project.

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MRB Ribbon Cutting Set for February 8, 2014

by Andrew Gates

After almost four years of construction, the newest major river bridge in the St. Louis region is nearly ready to open to traffic.

The new Mississippi River Bridge project will be open to traffic on Feb. 9, 2014. MoDOT will host a public celebration of the completed project on the new bridge on Feb. 8, 2014. Details on that celebration, which will include access to walk on the new bridge, will be released in January.

The bridge is officially named the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Before the project opens, crews have to complete several tasks on the bridge, to include finalizing the lighting, completing electrical work, removing formwork from the towers, striping and signing.

Getting to this point has meant a lot of teamwork from varied partners, said Randy Hitt, project director.

“The partnership on this project has been outstanding. We have had a great deal of cooperation between Federal Highway, MoDOT, IDOT, our design team and our construction team. Seeing a project of this magnitude come together requires a lot of attention to detail and a lot of moving parts. Through hard work and close partnering, this project is rolling into the final stretch on time and on budget,” said Hitt.



Construction crews build the median barrier for the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Being a part of all the planning and all the work that goes into something of that magnitude is incredible to see. You don't see it that often,” Kelly said.

Henry Woods, another construction inspector, started as an inspector on the Missouri approach to the new bridge. When the Missouri approach was completed, he moved to the inspecting portions of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge as well. Although both were bridges, there were big differences between inspecting both projects.

“One had cables – one didn't. One had pier caps and one had pier towers. On one, we worked 30 to 60 feet off the ground. On the other, we worked about 400 feet off the river. The sense of accomplishment is the same. It was great to be able to see a project on paper, to visualize it, and then be able to watch it get put together, piece by piece,” said Woods.

Being involved with this historic bridge project brings a certain sense of pride, he said.

Watching the new bridge come together has been rewarding for Chris Kelly, one of the construction inspectors working on the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge from the beginning.

“It's very satisfying to see something like this come to completion, when you've spent more than three years of your career working on it. It was a great experience – there have been a lot of unique tasks that we normally don't get the chance to work on,” he said.

For Kelly, his best experiences were also the ones that were somewhat exhausting.

“Working on the foundation was the best part of this job – drilling in the river and building the footing. That includes placing the mass concrete for up to 43 hours straight.

“When I take my kids over it in the future, I can say that I approved this concrete, that I made sure the steel was put in correctly. It’s a great feeling,” said Woods.

District Engineer Shares Vision and Passion for MoDOT's Future

by Andrew Gates

Editors Note: MoDOT's newest District Engineer Greg Horn shares his insight, vision and a bit of information about himself.

What is your overall vision for the St. Louis District?

I have been with MoDOT for almost 30 years, right here in St. Louis. I have witnessed a transformation that has taken place as we have broken down silos between departments, and become customer oriented. Over the last few years, I began to realize that other states have been looking at how we do things and they have implemented some of our practices. We have become a leader nationwide in innovation and efficiency. My goal is that we become the top DOT in the United States. That starts right here in St. Louis. We need to become the best, most credible source of information to the public. We need to become the "go to firm" that when anyone has questions about transportation, they turn to MoDOT. We need to lead the nation in efficiency and innovation, and I know we have the people here in St. Louis that can make that happen.



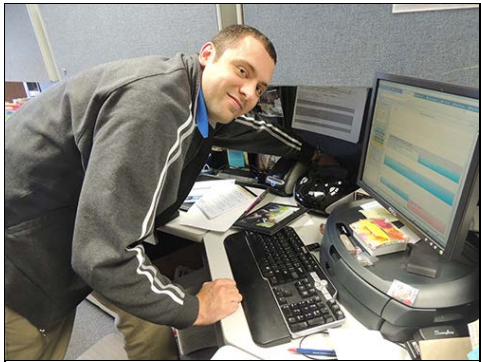
You were the state’s first area engineer. How have the people who followed after you made that position more impactful? What did you learn in that job that will help you as district engineer?

The area engineer position has blossomed since we started the position in 1996. The role of the area engineer, from the beginning, was to work with the communities to determine their transportation needs and desires. The AE would then work with the MoDOT area team to try to accomplish those goals. The area engineers have become the face of MoDOT in their communities. They have become so successful in helping the communities accomplish their goals, that other states and agencies have now implemented the area engineer model.

I learned from the area engineer position that it takes a team - design, construction, maintenance, traffic and all the other supporting departments to be successful. No one person, or department can make a change by themselves. The entire team needs to pull together and buy into the goals.

MoDOT Intern Places 10th in Cisco NetRiders National Competition

by Shaunda White



Eddie Randolph loads software on a workstation in the St. Louis district.

Eddie Randolph, a MoDOT computer science intern and Ranken Technical student, placed among the top 10 in the Cisco NetRiders USA/Canada National Competition held in St. Louis on December 6.

NetRiders is an interactive student skills competition that tests postsecondary level students networking and information technology skills through a series of online exams and simulation activities.

The competition began in mid-October with more than 2500 students throughout the United States and Canada. The online challenge tested students on their knowledge of computer technology, from troubleshooting network problems to the components of a monitor.

Eddie was one of 84 networking students from more than 40 states and some provinces in Canada that made it to the national competition. They competed for an all-expense paid study trip to the Cisco headquarters in Silicon Valley, CA.

“This by far was one of the most challenging tests I have ever taken and it proved to be an excellent way to test my computer abilities. Though I did not win the all-expense paid trip, I am still extremely proud for making it that far in the competition,” said Eddie.

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SW District at Work



KEEPING ROADS DRIVABLE: Plowing snow Dec. 5 is Springfield Maintenance Worker Johnny Woodruff, working for Seymour Maintenance along Route 125 between Strafford and Rogersville. (Photo/Bob Edwards)



PROVIDING ROAD CONDITIONS: Taking a shift answering district phones during an early December snowstorm is Senior Transportation Planner Julie Zibert in the Joplin Regional Office. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Early Snows Require Significant Salt Use; Crews Quickly Shift to Filling Potholes

by David Mitchell

Experience what it's like to ride along with a snowplow by watching this video - [Ride with a Snow Plow](#)

Earlier than normal winter weather forced Southwest District maintenance crews to use 10,000 tons of salt through Dec. 14 – about 35 percent of the 28,000 tons the district had stockpiled.

District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton has ordered another 7,500 tons to start replenishing supplies used during three winter events starting Dec. 5. A fourth round may hit the region this weekend.

With temperatures warming and snow melting, crews across the district started filling potholes on Monday, Dec. 16.

For example, half of the crews working at Springfield maintenance had to be out each day early this week filling potholes, including along several sections of Interstate 44 and most Springfield city routes.

"We've got a lot of sign damage to repair," Supervisor Ryan West said. Many signs were knocked down by sliding vehicles when roads were snow-covered.



After dealing with snow removal for 1-1/2 weeks, crews district-wide began filling potholes on Monday. Working on Kearney Street (Route 744) in Springfield are from left, Springfield Maintenance Crew Leader Brian Lambert, Senior Maintenance Worker Ricky Trower and Maintenance Worker Chris Bright. (Photo/Bob Edwards)

In Joplin, crews were switching from snow removal to pothole repair “as fast as we can tear down the salt spreaders and put on the TMAs (Truck-Mounted Attenuators),” Joplin Maintenance Supervisor Steve Smith said.

The same scenes have been repeated across the district.

“We just know this is what we have to do,” Middleton said.

In the first storm, beginning Dec. 5, much of southwest Missouri received six inches or more of snow. That’s early for that amount of snow for the region, the National Weather Service in Springfield said. The last time the area got that much early-December snow was 2006. Winter precipitation continued off and on into Dec. 14.

Maintenance crews plowing snow and Emergency Operations Center call takers worked many long hours, including ‘round the clock on several days.

During the first storm, crews south of I-44 pushed snow for 20 straight hours before getting the main routes to mostly clear Middleton said. That normally takes only three to four hours.

“This was a huge effort,” Middleton said. “We had such great teamwork across the district. I’m very proud of that.”

More winter weather may arrive Saturday, when winter officially begins, or Sunday.

“We’ll be ready,” Middleton said.



Plowing Route 125 north of Rogersville.
(Photo/Bob Edwards)



Loading salt at Joplin Maintenance.
(Photo/David Mitchell)

Safety is Goal of Chestnut Expressway Railroad Bridge Project Set for 2015-16

by Angela Eden

An [animation](#) showing traffic flow on East Chestnut Expressway (Bus. 65) in Springfield after a new railroad bridge is built was a major attraction for the 42 people who attended a MoDOT/Southwest public meeting Monday.

“Every comment I heard was positive,” Project Manager Don Saiko said after the meeting, held in the Southwest District office. “It was very well-received.”

The animation also can be viewed as part of an online public meeting on the [MoDOT/Southwest website](#).

The project involves building a bridge over the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railway tracks a quarter-mile west of U.S. 65, new accesses to businesses and a new traffic signal at Ingram Mill Avenue.

Estimated cost is \$14.8 million. Construction is scheduled for late 2015 through 2016. MoDOT and the City of Springfield are partners in the project, with Greene County and BNSF also providing funds.

Safety is the primary goal of the project designed to eliminate an at-grade crossing that frequently backs traffic onto the shoulders of nearby U.S. 65, often including morning rush hour. BNSF runs up to 40 trains a day on the line.

“This crossing is the number-one railroad crossing for near-misses in Missouri,” Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury said.

People are anxious to see the bridge built, Saiko said. “They’re tired of waiting for trains.”



Project Manager Don Saiko, left, discusses Chestnut Expressway (Bus. 65) railroad bridge project with Springfield News-Leader reporter Steve Herzog.
(Photo/Bob Edwards)

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Winter Weather Strikes SE District

Customers Thank Crews for Dedication

Old man winter didn't waste any time paying the Southeast District a visit this season. On Dec. 5, winter precipitation began to fall across the district. The district received about two inches of sleet and freezing rain, followed by 8 to 10 inches of snow.

"From ice storms to floods, the Southeast District is well prepared to handle anything that comes our way," said District Engineer Mark Shelton. "But I have to say this is the worst storm the Southeast District has experienced in several years due to its widespread nature."

Shelton explained this storm presented the maintenance crews with many other challenges, such as the ice and snow mix, continuous precipitation from Thursday afternoon when the storm struck through Friday and extremely cold temperatures.



SE District crews worked around the clock in split shifts to fight the first winter storm of the season.

"As I knew they would, our crews rose to the occasion and did all they could to keep the traveling public safe," he said. "I am very proud to work with such a dedicated, hardworking team."



NE crews pitched in to help the SE District during the storm.

Shelton added that others working behind the scenes in the district's customer service center also stepped up to work long hours to keep the traveling public safe and well informed. In addition, crews traveled across district lines from Northeast Missouri to help out.

"We truly are one team at MoDOT," he said. "When winter weather struck our area, the Northeast crews were ready to join us to fight the storm."

The public also expressed their appreciation for the Southeast District team by writing in to the district's Facebook page to share positive thoughts. During the storm, the Southeast District's Facebook "likes" nearly doubled, increasing from 2,724 to over 5,000. Please [click here](#) to read the comments shared on the SE District's Facebook

page.

Bollinger County Celebrates Completion of Route 34 Improvements

Despite the chilly weather, nearly 50 attendees gathered to celebrate the completion of improvements to Route 34 in Bollinger County on Dec. 17.

The improvements included paving and grading, as well as adding important safety features such as shoulders and realigning several curves.

"Without teamwork, this would not have been possible," said Project Manager Eric Krapf.

More than \$2 million for Route 34 improvements came from the Delta Regional Transportation Program. Delta Regional Authority provided over \$1 million. Woodland School District partnered with MoDOT and provided \$300,000. In addition, \$500,000 came from SFY 2010 Appropriations.

“We cannot thank our partners enough for stepping in to help this project become a reality. With the state’s current transportation funding issues, partnerships are vital,” said Krapf.

MoDOT’s contractor pursued a very aggressive schedule once the project was awarded and completed the work about six months early.

Speakers at the ceremony included:

- Ms. Kristi Nitsch on behalf of U.S. Representative Jason Smith
- State Senator Wayne Wallingford
- Woodland School Superintendent Jennings Wilkinson
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton



Ms. Kristi Nitsch, on behalf of U.S. Representative Jason Smith, spoke of how much the project would mean to the surrounding community and area travelers. Nitsch's mother previously worked at Woodland Schools, where the event was held. She mentioned that this project will help solve the school's prior flooding issues.

Thanks to Long-Term Service Award Recipients



The SE District recently held a service awards luncheon to honor employees serving 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years. Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger joined the long-term service award recipients in celebration of their years of dedicated service.

One employee, Maintenance Superintendent Lawrence Schumer, attended the event in celebration of his 40th year with MoDOT!

Thanks again to all 2013 recipients for your years of service!

Please click the image to the left to view photos from the event.

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